



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Glacier National Park
(A part of Waterton-Glacier
International Peace Park)

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Glacier National Park News Release

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NEWS 02-45

Man Survives Trip Over Upper McDonald Falls


Park officials echo their reminder for visitors to use extreme caution near water

WEST GLACIER, MONT. – Two days after a park visitor was involved in a near drowning accident at Virginia Falls, park officials announce that another visitor was treated and released from Kalispell Regional Medical Center (KRMC) Monday evening after slipping and falling over the Upper McDonald Falls in Glacier National Park.

Late Monday afternoon, Daniel Webley, 42, of Spokane, WA, reportedly ventured beyond the fence above Upper McDonald Falls. Webley apparently slipped and fell into Upper McDonald Creek, went over the falls, struck a rock, and then came ashore below the falls. His family sought help from others nearby, one of which provided two sleeping bags. The group then wrapped Webley in the bags to help prevent hypothermia.

A construction crew was flagged down on the Going-to-the-Sun Road, who in turn reported the accident via radio to park headquarters at approximately 6 p.m. Three park rangers were dispatched to the scene as well as the Columbia Falls ambulance. After preliminary assessments, as a precautionary measure, Webley was placed in a cervical collar and placed upon a backboard while being treated for hypothermia. He was transported to KRMC via the Columbia Falls ground ambulance where he was treated and released Monday evening.

Glacier National Park officials again remind visitors to heed warnings about slippery terrain and to not venture beyond marked and/or fenced areas. Visitors should keep a safe distance from any potential water danger and abide by park signs and fencing to avoid identified hazards.



Park interim superintendent Pete Hart took this second opportunity to remind visitors, “Anyone hiking near water should be EXTREMELY careful, as rocks are often wet and VERY slippery. Although rare, most fatalities occur when a person slips and are fatally injured during the fall.” Hart added, “Mr. Webley is a very lucky man to have come through the waterfall without potentially life-threatening injuries.”

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